Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A spindle head for a machine tool comprising a motor-spindle unit arranged in the spindle head which a drive motor whose motor shaft is adapted to serve as a spindle to mount tools, workpieces or workpiece blanks, wherein the drive motor of the motor-spindle unit is able to slide in the axial direction in a spindle housing, and a compressible member is provided for resisting axial displacement of the drive motor into the spindle housing so that said compressible member holds the drive motor in an intended working position up to a predetermined axial force level;

a switch responsive on deformation of the compressible member;

a sensor to detect a relative axial movement between the drive motor and the spindle housing, said sensor being adapted to cause operation of the switch;

wherein the drive motor is provided with a peripheral groove with a sensor fitting therein being guided on the spindle housing, a radial displacement of the sensor

caused by axial displacement of the drive motor causing operation of the switch.

2. (Previously Presented) The spindle head as set forth in claim 1, wherein said compressible member is at least one spacing element adapted to deform when a predetermined axial force level is reached.

3. (Previously Presented) The spindle head as set forth in claim 2, wherein the compressible member is arranged between axially opposite faces of the spindle housing and of the drive motor of the motor-spindle unit.

4. (Previously Presented) The spindle head as set forth in claim 3, wherein the compressible member is an annular element encircling the drive motor.

5. (Previously Presented) The spindle head as set forth in claim 2, comprising at least one axially aligned holding screw holding the drive motor in the axial direction on the spindle housing, the head of said screw bearing against the compressible member.

6. (Original) The spindle head as set forth in claim 5, comprising a plurality of holding screws distributed about the periphery of the drive motor, each holding screw being provided with a compressible sleeve or said holding

screws bearing against an intermediate annular element surrounding the drive motor.

Claims 7-9 (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The spindle head as set forth in claim 7, wherein the switch is designed to switch off or reverse the spindle feed or the tool feed or to switch off the entire machine tool.

11. (Currently Amended) A spindle head for a machine tool comprising a motor-spindle unit arranged in the spindle head which a drive motor whose motor shaft is adapted to serve as a spindle to mount tools, workpieces or workpiece blanks, wherein the drive motor of the motor-spindle unit is able to slide in the axial direction in a spindle housing, and a resilient member is provided for resisting axial displacement of the drive motor into the spindle housing so that said resilient member holds the drive motor in an intended working position up to a predetermined axial force level;

wherein said resilient member is a spring or Belleville washer or an irreversibly or plastically deforming element which deforms when a predetermined axial force level is reached; and

wherein the resilient element is arranged between axially opposite faces of the spindle housing and of the drive motor-spindle unit.

12. (Previously Presented) The spindle head as set forth in claim 11, wherein the resilient member is an annular element encircling the drive motor.

13. (Previously Presented) The spindle head as set forth in claim 11, comprising at least one axially aligned holding screw holding the drive motor in the axial direction on the spindle housing, the head of said screw bearing against the resilient member.

14. (Previously Presented) The spindle head as set forth in claim 11, comprising a switch responsive on deformation of the resilient member.

15. (Previously Presented) The spindle head as set forth in claim 14, comprising a sensor to detect a relative axial movement between the drive motor and the spindle housing, said sensor being adapted to cause operation of the switching means.

16. (Previously Presented) The spindle head as set forth in claim 15, wherein the drive motor is provided with a peripheral groove with said sensor element fitting therein,

said sensor being guided on the spindle housing, a radial displacement of the sensor caused by axial displacement of the drive motor causing operation of the switch.

17. (Previously Presented) The spindle head as set forth in claim 14, wherein the switch is designed to switch off or reverse the spindle feed or the tool feed or to switch off the entire machine tool.